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1961/05/19

RECORD OF ACTIONS
by the
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
at its
FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOURTH MEETING
held on
May 19, 1961
(Approved by the President on May 24, 1961)

ACTION NUMBER	SUBJECT
2426	MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THE RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING

Noted and discussed a presentation by Dr. Harold Brown, Director of Defense Research and Engineering, based on a paper circulated to the members of the National Security Council on May 15 which reflects the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Defense.

2427 U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN
(NSC Action No. 2420; Report of the Task Force on Iran dated May 15, 1961, entitled "A Review of Problems in Iran and Recommendations for the National Security Council")

a. Discussed the report of the Task Force on Iran, dated May 15, and revised the report's recommendations to read as follows:

"II. Recommendations for Immediate Action

1. That the U.S. make a major effort to back the new Government in Iran as the best instrument in sight for promoting orderly political, economic and social evolution in Iran, and for averting serious and damaging political developments.

2. That to this end the U.S. encourage Amini positively but discreetly in any serious efforts to solve Iran's immediate political and economic problems and

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2427 U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN (Continued)

consideration of the activation of additional units.

10. That the Departments of State and Defense comprehensively study the potentialities of advancing U.S. interest through CENTO.

11. That the U.S. make no present decision whether or how it would react militarily to Soviet attack on Iran, but as a means for identifying the key military and political considerations in reaching such a decision illustrative military plans should be developed for such action on the basis of at least the following alternatives (a) the prompt introduction of U.S. conventional forces in a strength up to two divisions, and (b) the prompt deployment of nuclear striking power so that it could be brought to bear in the Soviet border areas of Iran. The military planning called for by this paragraph, and the joint State/Defense study called for under paragraph 5-a above, should include an assessment of the effect of such deployments or other action on the general war posture of the U.S., weighing such effects against an estimate of the likelihood that Soviet action against Iran would in fact lead to a general war on many fronts."

b. Agreed that NSC 6010, "U.S. Policy Toward Iran," is no longer applicable and is to be considered as having been replaced by the above actions.

c. Noted that the Task Force would remain in being for such follow-through action on the above directive as its chairman deems appropriate.

2428 U.S. POLICY IN VIET-NAM
(Memo for the President from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, subject: "Program of Action for Viet-Nam," dated April 27, 1961; NSC Action No. 2416; National Security Action Memorandum No. 52, dated May 11, 1961)

Noted that National Security Action Memorandum No. 52 required no revision.

The President presided at this meeting. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Director, Bureau of the Budget participated in the Council actions above. The Attorney General; the Deputy Secretary of Defense; The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Acting Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Acting Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; the Acting Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Director, U.S. Information Agency; the Counselor, Department of State; the Deputy Under Secretary of State; the Special Counsel to the President; the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA); the Military Aide to the President; and Bromley Smith, NSC Staff, attended the meeting. The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; the Acting Secretary of the Army; the Acting Secretary of the Navy; the Acting Secretary of the Air Force; the Director of Defense Research and Engineering; the Adviser to the President on Disarmament; the Deputy Adviser to the President on Disarmament; and the Deputy Director, U.S. Disarmament Administration, attended the meeting for Item 1. The Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; the U.S. Ambassador to Iran; and Robert W. Komer, NSC Staff, attended the meeting for Item 2. The Director, Task Force on Viet-Nam attended the meeting for Item 3.